

THE VOTE,
AUGUST 6, 1920.
ONE PENNY.

"LADIES & GENTLEMEN OF THE JURY!"

D. M. NORTHCROFT.

THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

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FRIDAY, AUGUST 6, 1920.

OBJECT: To secure for Women the Parliamentary vote as it is or may be granted to men; to use the power thus obtained to establish equality of rights and opportunities between the sexes and to promote the social and industrial well-being of the community.

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BLAZING THE TRAIL.

Interview with Miss Vida Goldstein.

Miss Vida Goldstein's name is already sufficiently familiar, not only to readers of THE VOTE, but to suffragists all the world over. Her magnificent service to women and children, not only in the Dominions Overseas, but in Great Britain and the United States of America, have earned for her the love and admiration of all sections of the community.

A brief sketch of Miss Goldstein's life and work will not be amiss as a preface to an interview our representative secured with her this week. Miss Goldstein was born at Portland, Victoria (Australia). Her father was an Irishman, a Lieut.-Colonel Goldstein, and her mother the daughter of a pioneer squatter, one of the earliest arrivals from the Scottish Lowlands. Miss Goldstein's early youth was spent in Melbourne, where she received an excellent education, and matriculated at Melbourne University, with honours in English and French. Financial misfortune compelled her to earn her living at an early date, and she and her sisters opened a preparatory school for young children at East St. Kilda. A large majority of their pupils followed brilliant careers, and always attributed their future success to the excellent grounding they received early in life.

Social and industrial problems now began to largely engage Miss Goldstein's attention, and she also helped her mother in the Woman Suffrage Movement, which was just beginning to make headway under the leadership of Miss Annette Bear, afterwards Mrs. Bear Crawford. This lady, together with Mrs. Goldstein and Dr. Constance Stone, the first woman doctor in Australia, in 1897, organised the Committee that collected the Queen's Jubilee Fund for the establishment of the Queen Victoria Hospital for Women and Children, where women could be attended by women doctors.

In 1899, Miss Goldstein closed her school in order to give her whole time to the cause of women's enfranchisement. The battle had been won in the Lower House, but nine years more work was required before the Upper House capitulated. In 1902, the year the Federal Parliament enfranchised the women of Australia, Miss Goldstein visited America, at the invitation of the American Woman Suffrage Association, for the purpose of founding an International Woman Suffrage Society, and was appointed Secretary of the Conference. She stayed in America six months, visiting all the principal States, from New York to San Francisco, and speaking on the Suffrage question.

In 1903 Miss Goldstein formed the Women's Political Association, which invited her to contest Victoria in the general election, and though not elected, she polled 51,497 votes, a total which surprised both friends and opponents. In 1908, with the assistance of the Men's League for Woman Suffrage, the Victoria Woman Suffrage Bill was finally passed into law. In 1910 Miss Goldstein again stood for Victoria. This election was the fiercest and bitterest party fight Australia had hitherto seen; nevertheless, Miss Goldstein, a non-party candidate, and, moreover, a woman, polled nearly 54,000 votes. She also stood twice for the House of Representatives in 1913 and 1914, and for the Senate again in 1917, as an anti-militarist.

In 1911 Miss Goldstein was invited by the Women's Social and Political Union, of which Mrs. Pankhurst was then President, to visit England, and take part in our own campaign for Woman Suffrage. It will be recollected that we gave her a warm welcome on that occasion, thousands of women, including several of the foremost suffrage leaders, awaiting her arrival at Euston Station. During her stay in this country Miss

Goldstein spoke for every one of our suffrage organisations, both constitutional and militant, up and down the country.

Miss Goldstein is also well known in the journalistic world, as both Editor and free lance contributor. From 1899 to 1905 she owned, managed, and edited *The Woman's Sphere*, a bright monthly paper devoted to women's questions. She has also contributed to Australian, English, American, and French magazines and papers, one article in the "Nineteenth Century" on "Socialism in Australia," being indirectly the beginning of the famous arbitration court awards, based on the normal needs of a working man and his family. She is deeply interested in the subject of prison reform, and has done magnificent work in securing better conditions in penal institutions in Australia. As regards her legislative work, she has been chiefly instrumental in securing the passage of the following Bills: Food Adulteration Act, Old-Age Pensions Act, Conciliation and Arbitration Act, Commonwealth Naturalisation Act, Children's Emigration Act, Widows' Maintenance Act, Children's Court Act, Appointment of Women as Inspectors of Boarded-out Children, Appointment of Police Matrons, Legislation dealing with Deserting Husbands and Fathers, Equal Pay for Equal Work in Commonwealth and State Public Service and in Private Employment. Other reforms specially connected with Miss Goldstein's name are: Equal Marriage and Divorce Laws, Equal Custody and Guardianship of Children, Raising the age of consent for Boys and Girls to 21, Election of Women as Mayors and Councillors, Elective Ministries and the Abolition of Party Government.

"I am going to take a long rest," Miss Goldstein told our representative. "I have definitely retired from public work in Australia, and during these last few months since I have been over in England, I have just been reading and studying certain aspects of social and industrial life here which particularly interest me. Later I am going to visit the States, and I have also been invited to South Africa.

"Political women in England who know how hard I have worked on behalf of women in Australia often ask me how it is that Australian women, who have had the national suffrage and the right to sit in the Commonwealth Parliament since 1902, have not elected women members, nor won such reforms as equal pay for men and women, equal marriage and divorce laws, etc. My answer is invariably that the politically-minded woman is not yet born in Australia. This is not a reflection on Australian women, but rather a tribute to Australian men. The men of Australia have always stood for the equality of men and women from as far back as 1869, and this has had the effect of causing the masses of women to feel that there is no necessity for them to organise and work politically.

"The vast distances in Australia, the difficulties of transit, the remoteness of Australia from the rest of the world, have also reacted on the mass of Australian women and contributed to a lack of political thinking.

"Another reason for the difference between Australian women and Englishwomen is the power of big political parties, such as your Liberal and Conservative section. In Australia we have two forces—Labour and anti-Labour—in place of these, and though women to-day are working upon one or other of these lines, it is significant that the chief reforms gained for women and children so far have been won by non-party political action. This is the method I have always pursued myself. As a party candidate I know I should have been long ago elected in Australia, but this would have involved a sacrifice of principle, which I could not forego. I am content to have it so, for at least I have been the means of blazing the trail in which other women coming after me may plant their footsteps more securely."

WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

Anne Hutchinson Honoured.

The *Woman Citizen* reports that a statue of Anne Hutchinson has been unveiled at the State House in Massachusetts—the State from which she was expelled with contumely, to meet death later at the hands of the Indians. Our readers will remember that Mrs. Hutchinson went to Boston with her husband and family in 1636, and became a religious preacher in defiance of the supposed commands of St. Paul. Not only so, but she advanced new opinions, and her followers became known as "Opinionists." For this reason Anne Hutchinson was found guilty of heresy in a General Court, and sentenced to be banished. In her statue she has her arm thrown protectively around a little girl. Such pioneers suffer in their lives, but later on it is realised that they were helpers and light-bringers.

Municipal Drama Movement.

Battersea Borough Council is arranging with Miss Lena Ashwell to have dramatic performances in their Town Hall every Thursday evening from the middle of October till the end of March. The Camberwell Borough Council has approved the Finance Committee's report in favour of providing repertoire companies with a suitable hall, and the Mayor has obtained the use of the Baths Hall on Thursdays at a nominal fee. Fulham and Southwark are investigating similar schemes. The idea is that repertoire companies should be formed and should give a performance of Shakespearean plays or good modern comedies on each night throughout the week in the various town halls in London. Miss Lena Ashwell has held a conference with London mayors on the subject, and it may be expected that many boroughs will take up the scheme.

Woman Liberal Candidate.

Mrs. Egerton Stewart Brown, one of the best-known women politicians in the country, has been adopted by the Waterloo Parliamentary Division Liberal Association as prospective Liberal candidate for the division. Mrs. Stewart Brown is the daughter of Dr. E. K. Muspratt, of Seaforth Hall. She was president of the Lancashire and Cheshire Union Women's Liberal Associations for five years, and associated with numerous other political organisations. As member of the Liverpool City Council she has done good work.

Morality Films.

The L.C.C. decided in Committee last week that no young person of either sex, under the age of 18, should in future be admitted to films portraying sex questions. It was pointed out, during the discussion, that the age of consent was 16, two years less than the limit prescribed by the L.C.C.!

Speeding up Ratification.

The Executive Committee of the Republican National Committee of Ohio, U.S.A., has passed a resolution urging Republican members of the Tennessee Legislature to vote in favour of the ratification of the Federal Suffrage Amendment Bill.

Woman Doctor Centenarian.

Dr. Elizabeth D. A. Cohen, the first medical woman in New Orleans, recently celebrated her 100th birthday.

Invitation to Dr. Ethel Bentham.

Dr. Ethel Bentham has accepted the invitation of the East Islington Labour Party to contest the division at the next election.

Woman Proprietor.

Frau Margarete Bruehl, the owner of a grain firm, is the first woman to be admitted to the Berlin Bourse.

RAILWAY FARES.

The debate on Increased Railway Fares showed that the Government could count on 156 Members of the House of Commons to support its policy of increasing fares, and that 61 Members refused this support. In spite of petitions and protests the Government intends to flout public opinion, and to cover up the waste and mismanagement of the railways during the last few years by extracting from the travelling community the huge additional amount of £66,000,000 before the revenue of the railways ceases to be the concern of the Government. We hope that all readers of THE VOTE will support every protest against this new tyranny of the Government, and we think they may like to know that the following Members voted with the Government on this occasion:—

Addison, Rt. Hon. Dr. C.; Agg-Gardner, Sir James; Armitage, Robert; Baird, Sir John Lawrence; Baldwin, Rt. Hon. Stanley; Balfour, George; Banbury, Rt. Hon. Sir Frederick G.; Banner, Sir John S. Harwood; Barnes, Rt. Hon. G.; Barnett, Major R. W.; Barnston, Major Harry; Barrie, Charles Coupar; Bell, Lieut.-Col. W. C. H.; Benn, Sir A. S.; Betterton, Henry B.; Borwick, Major G. O.; Boscawen, Rt. Hon. Sir A. Griffith; Bowles, Col. H. F.; Breese, Major Charles E.; Bridgeman, William Clive; Brown, Capt. D. C.; Bruton, Sir James; Buchanan, Lieut.-Col. A. L. H.; Buckley, Lieut.-Col. A.; Bull, Rt. Hon. Sir Wm. James; Butcher, Sir John George; Campbell, J. D. G.; Campion, Lieut.-Col. W. R.; Casey, T. W.; Cecil, Rt. Hon. Evelyn; Chadwick, Sir Robert; Chamberlain, N.; Coates, Major Sir Edward F.; Cobb, Sir Cyril; Cockerill, Brig.-Gen. G. K.; Cohen, Major J. Brunel; Colvin, Brig.-Gen. Richard Beale; Cooper, Sir Richard Ashmole; Cory, Sir C. J.; Craig, Col. Sir J.; Dalziel, Sir D.; Davies, Thomas; Davison, Sir W. H.; Dawes, James Arthur; Edge, Capt. William; Edwards, Major J.; Elliot, Capt. Walter E.; Eyres-Monsell, Commander B. M.; Fell, Sir Arthur; Flannery, Sir James Fortescue; Ford, Patrick Johnston; Foreman, Henry; Forrest, Walter; Fraser, Major Sir Keith; Geddes, Rt. Hon. Sir E.; Gibbs, Col. George Abraham; Gilmour, Lieut.-Col. John; Grant, James A.; Gray, Major Ernest; Green, Joseph F.; Greenwood, William; Gregory, Holman; Gretton, Col. John; Hacking, Capt. Douglas H.; Hamilton, Major C. G. C.; Hanna, George Boyle; Harmsworth, C. B.; Haslam, Lewis; Henderson, Major V. L.; Henry, Denis S.; Herbert, Dennis; Hewart, Rt. Hon. Sir Gordon; Hope, James F.; Hope, Lieut.-Col. Sir J. A.; Hopkinson, A.; Horne, Edgar; Horne, Sir R. S.; Hunter-Weston, Lieut.-Gen. Sir A. G.; Hurst, Lieut.-Col. Gerald B.; Jackson, Lieut.-Col. Hon. F. S.; Jameson, J. Gordon; Jephcott, A. R.; Jodrell, Neville Paul; Johnson, Sir Stanley; Jones, Sir Edgar R.; Jones, J. T.; Kellaway, Rt. Hon. Frederick George; King, Com. Henry Douglas; Lane-Fox, G. R.; Law, Rt. Hon. A. B.; Lewis, Rt. Hon. J. H.; Lloyd-Graeme, Major Sir P.; Lorden, John William; Loseby, Capt. C. E.; M'Curdy, Rt. Hon. C. A.; McLaren, Robert; Macmaster, Donald; Macnamara, Rt. Hon. Dr. T. J.; Macpherson, Rt. Hon. James I.; Malone, Major P. B.; Moreing, Capt. Algernon H.; Morison, Rt. Hon. Thomas Brash; Munro, Rt. Hon. Robert; Murchison, C. K.; Murray, Major William; Neal, Arthur; Newman, Sir R. H. L.; Norris, Col. Sir Henry G.; Parker, James; Perring, William Geo.; Pinkham, Lieut.-Col. Charles; Pollock, Sir Ernest M.; Pulley, Charles Thornton; Raeburn, Sir William H.; Raw, Lieut.-Col. N.; Reid, D. D.; Remer, J. R.; Roberts, Rt. Hon. G. H.; Roberts, Sir S.; Rogers, Sir Hallelwell; Rose, Frank H.; Rutherford, Sir W. W.; Samuel, A. M.; Sanders, Col. Sir Robert A.; Scott, A. M.; Scott, Leslie; Seager, Sir William; Shaw, William T.; Simm, M. T.; Spout, Col. Sir Alexander; Stanley, Major Hon. G.; Steel, Major S. Strang; Stephenson, Col. H. K.; Stevens, Marshall; Stewart,

Gershom; Sturrock, J. Leng; Sutherland, Sir William; Sykes, Sir Charles; Talbot, G. A.; Terrell, Capt. R.; Thomas, Rt. Hon. James H.; Thomson, F. C.; Thomson, Sir W. Mitchell; Townley, Maximilian G.; Tyron, Major George Clement; Vickers, Douglas; Walters, Rt. Hon. Sir John Tudor; Walton, J.; Ward-Jackson, Major C. L.; Waring, Major Walter; Williams, Aneurin; Wilson, Daniel M.; Wilson, Col. Leslie O.; Worsfold, Dr. T. Cato; Young, Lieut.-Com. E. H.; Younger, Sir George. Tellers—Lord E. Talbot and Mr. Dudley Ward.

Those who voted against the Government were:—

Benn, Capt. Wedgwood; Bowerman, Rt. Hon. Charles W.; Brace, Rt. Hon. William; Briant, Frank; Bromfield, William; Burn, Col. C. R.; Cairns, John; Cape, Thomas; Carter, W.; Clynes, Rt. Hon. J. R.; Davies, Alfred Thomas; Davison, J. E.; Edwards, C.; Edwards, John H.; Finney, Samuel; Galbraith, Samuel; Gilbert, James Daniel; Glanville, Harold James; Graham, R.; Griffiths, T.; Guest, J.; Holmes, J. Stanley; Hood, Joseph; Jones, G. W. H.; Kenworthy, Lieut.-Commander J. M.; Kiley, James D.; Law, Alfred J.; Lawson, John J.; Lunn, William; Maddocks, Henry; Martin, Capt. A. E.; Morgan, Major D. Watts; Myers, Thomas; Newbould, Alfred Ernest; O'Grady, Capt. James; Palmer, Charles Frederick; Parkinson, Albert L.; Parkinson, John Allen; Parry, Lieut.-Col. Thomas Henry; Purchase, H. G.; Raffan, Peter Wilson; Richardson, Alexander; Richardson, R.; Roberts, Frederick O.; Robertson, John; Short, Alfred; Sitch, Charles H.; Smith, Sir Allan M.; Spencer, George A.; Swan, J. E.; Thomas, Sir Robert J.; Thorne, G. R.; Warren, Lieut.-Col. Sir Alfred H.; White, Charles F.; Wignall, James; Wild, Sir Ernest Edward; Williams, Col. P.; Wilson, W. Tyson; Wintringham, T.; Yeo, Sir Alfred William; Young, Robert. Tellers—Mr. Higham and Mr. Clement Edwards.

The above division shows an exceedingly small House in which to consider so important a matter of public interest. We cannot help thinking that if it had been a question of raising or decreasing Members' salaries the numbers present would have been much greater. Yet we learn that last week the Treasury decided to pay the salaries of Members of Parliament in full, excusing them any deduction for Income-Tax. In these circumstances the least they can do is to show a proper interest in the concerns of the constituents who send them to Parliament for this purpose.

F. A. U.

"UNIVERSAL" SUFFRAGE.

Has the Prime Minister forgotten that no woman under 30 years of age in this country has the parliamentary vote? This would seem to be the case, judging from his reply last week to a Labour deputation, when he is reported to have said with reference to a threat of direct action: "I think that cuts very deeply in a democratic country where the suffrage is universal (the italics are ours) because once that begins there is no saying where it will end." In the early autumn the Women's Freedom League hopes to arrange a deputation of young women to the Prime Minister to put forward their claims to the parliamentary vote on the same terms as men. When that small measure of justice is conceded, the Prime Minister may with more accuracy be able to state that there is universal adult suffrage in this country.

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EDITORIAL.

The Editor is responsible for unsigned articles only. Articles, paragraphs, or cuttings dealing with matters of interest to women generally will be welcomed. Every effort will be made to return unsuitable MSS. if a stamped addressed envelope be enclosed, but the Editor cannot be responsible in case of loss.

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COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS!

A curious document has come into our hands—an Appeal by Mrs. Lloyd George to the women electors to support the Coalition candidate at one of the recent bye-elections. It sets forth in varied type the benefits conferred upon women by the Coalition Government, and our readers may like to have a list of them. The Premier's wife tells us that "it was Mr. Lloyd George's Coalition Government which gave women the parliamentary vote as a national recognition of the services rendered by them during the war." We wonder if Mrs. Lloyd George ever heard of the Speaker's Conference, and the practical impossibility of extending votes to soldiers and sailors unless some measure of enfranchisement was also given to women? We ourselves do not remember that the present Prime Minister gave any conspicuous assistance at that time to secure votes for women; but if it was his intention to give women votes as a national recognition of their services during the war, why did he leave voteless the women under 30 years of age who formed the great majority of munition workers, the W.A.A.C's., the W.R.N.S., and the other innumerable young women who helped to win the war? Mrs. Lloyd George also states in this appeal that "the Coalition Government has passed an Act of Parliament removing all sex disqualifications"! How is it then that a woman cannot be a voter or a magistrate until she is 30 years of age, although a man may be both at 21? How is it that no peeress in her own right can have a seat or a vote in the House of Lords; that women are not allowed to enter the higher posts of the Civil Service; that all the really well paid posts in all Government departments—notably under the Ministry of Health—are reserved for men? And how is it that the Government passed its Pre-War Practices (Restoration) Act, by which women who had become skilled workers in well-paid trades during the war, were thrown out of employment, and employers forbidden, under a penalty, to give them work? And how is it that the Home Secretary has forbidden any nightwork for women in factories? In our opinion the Coalition Government has created many fresh disabilities for women. Among other things, Mrs. Lloyd George states that "the Ministry of Health Act and the Housing Acts of the Coalition Government are red-letter marks of Social Progress. We wish that there was something more real about their benefits. The Housing muddle grows more appalling, as we see the few rabbit-hutch-looking houses—at £1,000 apiece—at present being erected in the outskirts of London. Mrs. Lloyd George says nothing about increased rents or increased railway fares; but she does assert that "no Government before it has such a splendid record of good deeds done in the same length of time as the Coalition Government." We would agree with her if she substituted "work talked about" for "deeds done" in this last statement; but to what political position has Mrs. Lloyd George been appointed which entitles her to give advice to women voters?

EQUALLY UNSATISFACTORY

We know that Lt.-Col. Archer-Shee would like to impose a fine on all voters who refused to exercise their right to vote at an Election, but at least one woman voter refused to vote either for Lt.-Col. Sir Arthur Churchman or Mr. Henry Harben at the Woodbridge Election, because, as she stated, both were equally unsatisfactory from her point of view. That voter was our Hon. Treasurer, Dr. Knight, who travelled from London to Woodbridge for the purpose of voting. On the previous day she sent a telegram to each of the candidates as follows:—

"Will you work for the removal of all restrictions on women's labour, with equal pay, for votes on equal terms, and equality of opportunity for both sexes throughout all branches of national life? Will call at head committee room to-morrow morning before voting.—KNIGHT, Hon. Treasurer, Women's Freedom League."

Dr. Knight first called at Sir Arthur Churchman's committee rooms. All she could learn there was that the telegram had been received, but Sir Arthur had that morning taken away a bundle of telegrams and letters in his pockets!

She next went to Mr. Harben's rooms, where she was informed that no reply had been left for her, but that Mr. Harben had always worked for the women's cause. Dr. Knight said that she knew Mr. Harben's previous fine record, but she wanted to know if he would be prepared to vote against his Party if any measures like the Pre-War Practices Act were introduced into the House of Commons. She pointed out that the Labour Party's record in regard to women in industry was certainly not above reproach, and wanted to make quite sure that she did not vote for any man unless she could firmly rely on him to safeguard women's interests, even if this meant that he would have to vote against his own Party. The man in charge could only generally assure her of Mr. Harben's good intentions and general principles, and as Dr. Knight did not consider that this assurance was a definite answer to her questions, she reluctantly returned to London without recording her vote, but with the firm conviction that what is really wanted to get fair treatment for women are more women in parliament.

AN ECHO OF ELLEN SULLIVAN.

Last week Major Hills drew the attention of the Home Secretary to the birth and death of a child in Bagthorpe Gaol, Nottingham, and elicited the information that as it was only a small prison there was no resident trained and certified maternity nurse, although a certified midwife was employed and was present at the confinement. The previous week we read in the papers that a Newcastle woman who was expecting a child in a fortnight had been sent to prison for three weeks on a charge of bigamy—she had been deserted by her husband and had gone through a form of marriage with another man, because they both hoped that this ceremony would prevent any stigma being placed upon the child in after years—and was only released because great local pressure was brought to bear upon the authorities in this case. Our readers will remember the circumstances of the death of both Ellen Sullivan and her child, which was born in Holloway Gaol—the mother being only 17 years of age, and imprisoned on remand for using bad language. Over and over again we have protested against children being allowed to be born in prison. Whatever the fault, or even the crime of the woman, she should at any rate during the period of her confinement and convalescence be in a place outside the prison walls, if only because the child shall not be registered as having been born in prison. The woman has quite enough to put up with without being conscious that her child throughout life will be branded by her imprisonment.

"LADIES & GENTLEMEN OF THE JURY!"

RESTORATION OF WOMEN'S ANCIENT RIGHT.

The news that at Bristol Quarter Sessions, this week, a jury was empanelled consisting of six men and six women to try criminal cases, at last brings the institution of jurywomen in this country into the region of practical politics.

A jury, as most people know, is a body of laymen ("twelve good men and true") selected by lot to ascertain, under the guidance of a judge, the truth in questions of fact in either civil or criminal law. Certain persons, from time immemorial, have always been exempt. These include the clergy, members of the Government, lawyers, doctors, naval and military men while on active service, and women.

The reasons for the male exemptions are easily apparent, but the decision against women jurors seems to have a somewhat obscure origin, and to be founded on convention and prejudice rather than on reason or necessity. Women are already serving this country as magistrates, borough councillors, guardians, inspectors, aldermen, and mayors. All these offices require much more

Experience and Judgment

than is possessed by the average juror. Women may be credited with an equal proportion of brains, and in many cases are known to possess far greater powers of intuitional discernment. Most women, too, with the exception of professional and business women, and the mothers of large families, have greater leisure than their men folk, and yet are permitted fewer opportunities of using it for the State.

Our forefathers were apparently much broader minded in their outlook on life than we of the present generation. Women held public offices in the Middle Ages to an extent which nowadays would scarcely be credited in face of the modern restrictions which still trammel women's progress. According to the White Book of the City of London, a copy of which may be seen in the British Museum, women have been High Chamberlains, Sheriffs, High Stewards, Lords Marshal, and even Royal Champions (this last executed by proxy). They have also been appointed Justices of the Peace, Clerks of the Crown, Governors of Houses of Correction, and High Constables. Needless to say, these offices entailed certain duties by all who held them, irrespective of sex, and in consequence we find women jurors figuring very considerably in the ancient records. There are several cases of women on juries in the Jura Anglorum by Francis Plowden, one, Dame Coplez of Gatton, being specially noted as having figured in several lawsuits. Women, in those days, seem to have lent their services chiefly in connection with their own sex. The

Parish Records

of Edlyngem narrate the case of Margareta Lyndsey contra Johannes de Longcaster in February, 1435, with six women named as jurors, and in the Court at Durham, in October, 1443, in the case of Beatrix Athynson contra Margareta Donyle, women jurors are again mentioned. Women defaulters in respect of jury service suffered the same fate as members of the other sex. For was it not recorded in the Court Rolls of Rowington, Warwickshire, how Joan Shacksper, with other absentees, was fined the sum of 4d. for failing to serve as juror?

Many objections will doubtless present themselves against this latest innovation. Women, we shall be told, will become coarsened by contact with the seamy side of life, much of which is inevitably revealed in the evidence heard in Court rooms.

There is, however, another side to the question. Mr. Cecil Chapman, a firm supporter of mixed juries in the Divorce Courts, has given it as his opinion that a man would be ashamed to go into Court if women were there to listen to what he had done. Besides, we

have actual proof from those of the American States which have instituted the custom for many years past with marked success, that purification of the moral atmosphere of the Courts has undoubtedly been achieved by the presence of women jurors. "The woman juror," it has been said by one competent to judge, "has improved the atmosphere of the Courts. There is less coarse comment, and a new nicety of discrimination in language about the halls of justice . . . thirty days of jury service is a great education, both to the average man as well as woman."

The presence of women jurors, again, would go far to correct the somewhat perverted sense of humour which is often so marked a feature of the so-called "funny" cases in Court. We can all recollect some ridiculous lawsuit connected with dressmakers and milliners, or whatever purely feminine interest particularly appeals to masculine pleasantries, where justice and horseplay were inextricably combined to the diversion of the onlookers.

Another objection lies in the assertion, which is, no doubt, a truthful one, that women prisoners would fare far less leniently at the hands of their own sex than at the judgment of male juries. This, however, cannot be considered a serious argument, unless

Leniency with Wrong-Doing

is ever synonymous with justice, but what is certain is that where either mixed or feminine juries prevail the release of women criminals on sentimental grounds will be an impossibility.

On the contrary, women are bound to benefit from the verdicts of their own sex in a manner which male juries, by virtue of sex limitations of understanding, can never hope to equal. It is a well-known fact that when women first acted as jurors with men some years ago in the Insane Courts at Chicago, they saved helpless, but harmless, women from being immured in asylums, while they sent others to institutions for treatment. In a Divorce Case at Tacoma, Washington, the judge even called upon three women to share the Bench with him, and give their advice, having come to the conclusion that it was one which women were better able to understand than men.

Men, with the best will in the world, cannot decide cases involving women, without the guiding thought of women to aid them. The "jury of matrons" empanelled in this country on certain occasions, when women criminals plead impending motherhood as a reason for stay of execution, is a proof in kind. It is just as absurd to expect men to do everything as if the tables were turned on our present belated system, and women only were permitted to try men, giving the latter no representation. The custom of women jurors is making

Marked Headway

in those countries sufficiently enlightened to make use of their services to the State. In Norway, women have even been elected foremen of juries by mutual consent. In cases concerning women and children, and in all matrimonial cases, it is not only advisable, but essential, that women should form part, at any rate, of the jury. Such cases would form useful object lessons to begin with, whilst time could be safely trusted to develop other channels of usefulness for the services of women jurors.

D. M. NORTHCROFT.

[This article is founded on notes kindly supplied by Mrs. Boswell Tucker.—D. M. N.]

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BOOK REVIEWS.

History of the Thrift Movement in America. By S. W. Straus. (Lippincott.) 6s. net. (Can be obtained at this office.)

The subject of thrift at first sight might seem to be a dull one, whereas this book is in reality a fascinating record of an important movement in the States, which might, with great advantage, be imitated in our own country. The author, who is the President of the American Society for Thrift, treats his subject in the broadest possible sense. Not merely laborious saving, but putting all one's faculties to the best possible uses, he defines Thrift principally to be *elimination of waste*, and one of the great constructive forces necessary to human advancement. Thrift, according to Mr. Straus, is a state of mind, and before the war practically no civilised country possessed a proper mental attitude towards this important matter. The author says, however, that the war did more to teach thrift to mankind than any event in history. Some of his remarks are well worth quoting: "The index of national strength is the average economic position of the nation's citizens, and the conditions of the individual unit depends primarily and very largely on the extent to which he practices thrift . . . the thrift that means neither waste of hours in idleness nor unwholesome methods of living . . . the thrift which precludes squandered health, time and energy, as well as wasted money . . . the thrift of prudent spending as well as of wise saving . . . the thrift that recognises that the finer things of life must be encouraged." One of the chapters is devoted to tracing the efforts of thrift in the various countries of Europe, all of which seem to have arisen within the last 150 years. Belgium is specially praised in this connection. In happy pre-war days she was a nation of independents—a country in which pauperism was unknown. France, also, which before the war had a better understanding of thrift than any other nation, and by this means became one of the great creditor nations of the world. Holland, Switzerland and Denmark also come in for their full share of praise. England and America come a long way down the list! Mr. Straus believes very strongly that since Thrift is primarily a state of mind, its practices can best be developed through the regular processes of education. It should begin in the schoolroom with the child's earliest years. The countries mentioned above as having practised thrift most assiduously all teach the subject in the public schools, as it is now being taught in America.

The Leisure of the People. A report of the National Conference at Manchester. (Published by the Conference Committee, 29, Princess Street, Albert Square, Manchester.) 1s. 6d. (Can be obtained at this office.)

The right use of leisure is becoming an increasingly important subject now that industrial workers on all hands are demanding a shorter working day. As aptly stated in the Preface, "it is in leisure that the real spontaneous self is set free. In our work we are all more or less under restraint; we all more or less conform to type. But in leisure we are masters of our own action; we have free choice; we find ourselves. . . . A man's choice is the index of his character." Music, Folk Dancing and Drama are cited as affording useful scope to the activities, and not merely a form of recreation, but an actual source of mental stimulus. The right use of holidays is discussed at some length, and open-air camp life advocated as an antidote to "tripperism." Parks, Playing Fields and Play Centres receive adequate attention, and the reconstruction of social life in villages is sympathetically handled. Miss Alice Buckton's efforts at Glastonbury were described by herself. The value of Boys' and Girls' Clubs and similar organisations were agreed upon by all present at the Conference.

"SIMPLE LIFE" EXHIBITION at WESTMINSTER

An Exhibition of "The Simple Life" was held at the Central Hall, Westminster, last week. On the afternoon of Tuesday, July 27th, the opening day, the Nine Elms Settlement (Women's Freedom League) gave a Reception, at which Mrs. Despard gave her experiences on "How I Live the Simple Life." She said that some years ago people jeered at those who talked of the Simple Life, and said it was only fit for the very rich, because people who took it up as a craze went into it in an expensive way, and though they might only have three courses for dinner, those three cost probably more than other people's six or seven. But the war had taught us that there really was a simple way of living, and many people are still following out those precepts. Mrs. Despard said she hoped the time would come when what was necessary to one was necessary, and would be accessible, to all. She was not an ascetic; she loved life and enjoyed it, and wanted everyone else to enjoy it. What led her to give up meat-eating was reading "The Perfect Way." Her friends at once predicted that her mental powers would fail, but no such thing happened. The Simple Life should be applied to clothing as well as food, and she was distressed at the Birds' Plumage Bill being talked out, for there will be danger to human life if such wholesale destruction of birds goes on. Birds were of great use in the economy of nature. We ought not to be afraid of the open-air; sleeping out of doors was the most refreshing sleep that was possible. Dwellings were not simple enough. Great big houses in Kensington and Bayswater were standing empty because people were now realising that simplicity in housing added pleasure to life. The Japanese were far ahead of us in this matter. They used their beautiful things one at a time, and kept the others out of sight. Whenever nations grew too luxurious and strove to outstrip each other in display the final result was a dreadful war, such as we had just passed through. Surely it would be better to develop a love of Humanity rather than riches.

Mrs. Despard said she had lived for 30 years amongst poor people, and was now at Nine Elms, where, at the Settlement, a Restaurant, established in 1915, supplied 150 children every day with cheap and suitable meals, plates of soup, etc., or pudding for ½d. or 1d. She hoped that the Settlement would be taken over by the Battersea Council, who had an elaborate scheme for improving conditions in Battersea. In addition to the Restaurant, they had a milk depot for delicate children, and a Guest Home for children whose mothers were ill and not able to look after them.

A particularly interesting feature of the Exhibition was the stall of the Fraternity Weavers, a colony of women at South Holmwood, with its artistically woven scarves, jumpers, etc., dyed with vegetable dyes. These weavers lead the happiest possible lives, pursuing their beloved craft under ideal conditions. They buy the raw wool from the farmers at 2s. 9d. per lb. (!) then soak the fleeces in rain water until the worst of the dirt and grease is removed, and, finally, wash them in warm soap lather. They make their own dyes from the young bracken shoots growing at their very doors or from privet buds, or lichen.

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS, W.F.L.
LONDON AND SUBURBS.

DARE TO
BE FREE

Business Meeting, 19, Marine Mansions. Hostess: Mrs. Williams. 3.30 p.m.

PROVINCES.
Monday, September 6. — Hastings. Whist Drive. Metropole Hotel, Robertson Terrace. 7.30 p.m.
Tuesday, September 14. — Bexhill.
Friday, November 26, and Saturday, November 27.—Green, White and Gold Fair, Caxton Hall, Westminster.

WALES.
From July 29 and throughout August—Aberystwyth. Meetings at the Bandstand every night. 8 p.m. Subjects: "League of Nations," "Equal Pay for Equal Work," "Why Women Should Use the Vote," "The Need for Women in Parliament," etc. Speakers: Mrs. Wynne Nevinson, L.L.A., J.P. Chairman: Alix M. Clark.

'DAILY NEWS' & FIRST LADY JURORS

"Bristol's first women jurors, interviewed to-day, confessed that they faced the ordeal with considerable trepidation, but that it had been less trying than they had feared. They had been shown the utmost consideration and kindness by the Recorder, the barristers and court officials.

"They were mostly business women, with one or two social workers among them.

"I am glad I have had the experience," said Miss Gulliford. "I found it most interesting, as I had never before been in a criminal court. I am satisfied that women can be very useful on juries, especially in cases where their own sex are concerned. They understand their temptations and errors better than men. Jurors should, however, be women of experience. I do not think women should be called in cases of a repulsive nature."

"Miss Parker, a business woman, said she found the court depressing. It was her first experience, and though she feared it, she was glad to have had the experience. She was much struck with the fairness of the procedure to the prisoners.

"Another lady said she found it very painful seeing the poor creatures sent below after sentence. She agreed that women were necessary on juries where women were charged, because they saw through the wiles of their own sex better than men, who were easily deceived by a clever female.

"Mrs. Wellings, at the end of the day, told the Recorder she should not come again as she had three children at home to care for, and they were alone. The Recorder said he understood the difficulty and excused her, as he did also a widow who had had to close her shop in order to attend. This lady, Mrs. Yandell, expressed the view that men were much more suited than women for jury work."

A VACATION SCHOOL.

The Vacation School at the Passmore Edwards Settlement, in which the late Miss Humphry Ward took such a special interest, has opened again for these holidays. Arrangements were made to take six hundred children a day, and nearly seven hundred have already turned up. Half of these children, who live in the crowded streets near by come in the morning, and the others in the afternoon, when they are provided with all the amusements and opportunities which play-centres have created for children during the last few years. This holiday school, amongst the crowded houses of this district and limited playing space for children, must cause great relief to overworked mothers, and we only wish the idea might be repeated in other poor neighbourhoods.

OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS.

A.

We offer a year's subscription to THE VOTE for the best original description of the adventures of the Pilgrim Mothers in the "Mayflower," and after landing in the New World. (Many books at a moderate price dealing with the Pilgrim Fathers and the voyage of the "Mayflower" have recently been published, and would supply the necessary information.)

1.—Articles must be typed or written on one side only of the paper, with THE VOTE coupon attached.

2.—They must not exceed 1,000 words in length.

3.—They must be addressed to The Editor, THE VOTE, 144, High Holborn, London, W.C., and must reach this office not later than August 30th, 1920.

B.

We offer a prize of a new book to the first reader who obtains six new subscribers to THE VOTE for one year. The names and addresses of six new subscribers thus obtained, together with the annual subscriptions, should be forwarded to the Editor, THE VOTE, 144, High Holborn, W.C. These will be offered a choice of three books from which to select their prize.

COUPON.

"Vote" Prize Competition.

Name

Address

JULY COMPETITION.

As no answers have been received in reply to last month's Essay, "Where Women Vote," we are regretfully obliged to supply the information ourselves in the following short summary obtained from the July issue of *Jus Suffragi*. The position in Great Britain is well known. In other countries it stands as follows. In Austria, women vote on the same terms as men. Two million women voted in January, 1919. In British East Africa women got votes and eligibility in 1919 on equal terms for white men and white women. They were enfranchised together. In Canada women have votes on equal terms with men, but the Federal Amendment is not yet ratified. In Crimea (the first Mohammedan country to give votes to women) women got votes on equal terms with men in December, 1917. Eighty-three per cent voted. In Czecho-Slovakia women have votes on the same terms as men. In Denmark women obtained the Parliamentary vote on equal terms with men in 1915. In Estonia women have votes on the same terms as men. In Germany women got votes on equal terms with men in 1918, eight weeks before the elections. Twenty million women are enfranchised, and 70-90 per cent voted. In Hungary women got votes in November, 1918. All men have it at 21; women, if they can read and write, have it at 24. In Iceland women have votes on equal terms, and it is part of the new Constitution. In Lettonia men and women both got votes on equal terms in 1918. In Lithuania men and women both got votes on equal terms in 1920. In Luxembourg women got votes on equal terms with men (at the age of 20). They have voted twice, first in the Referendum, and then in the Elections. In the Netherlands a Bill giving women votes on the same terms as men (at 25) passed in May, 1919, and received Royal Assent in September, 1919. One and a half million women are enfranchised. They have not voted yet, but will in 1922. In Poland women have votes on equal terms with men and eligibility. In Rhodesia women got votes on equal terms with men in 1919. In Russia women got votes on equal terms with men during the first revolution. In Sweden women got votes on the same terms as men in 1918, but it will not be ratified till after the autumn elections. It will be through by February, 1921, and they will vote in the following autumn. There will be about 16,000,000 women voters. In Ukraine women and men got votes on equal terms in 1917. They voted in 1919.

HOLLOWAY PRISON NURSING STAFF

In reply to a question the HOME SECRETARY informed Major HILLS that a duly trained hospital staff at Holloway Prison is in course of formation, and that it will consist of a Hospital Lady Superintendent, two principal nurses, and forty-eight nurses.

FRIDAY,
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